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PROTEST AGAINST MORAL AND PHYSICAL FLABBINESS

CAREFUL perusal of Colonel Theodore Roosevelt's address, delivered yesterday afternoon to an enormous throng at the Panama-Pacific exposition, places the ex-president in an entire new light. Hitherto, we have considered him a jingo and have congratulated ourselves that his successors have been, what he was not, safe, sane and conservative. It is possibly true that if Colonel Roosevelt occupied the presidential chair at this time, he would be in deed, as well as in name, the commander-in-chief of the army and navy of the United States and would very probably be wearing a uniform at present instead of being in civilian dress.

It is by no means certain that even with Colonel Roosevelt's weariness of "this bleating, inane cry of 'peace at any price' we shall yet escape a war which has been deferred, though not prevented, by glossing over most damnable outrages against our national honor, desecration of our flag and the brutal murder of our women and babes by a power that holds "a scrap of paper" to be that much and nothing more even if upon it be inscribed an oath and a pledge.

Colonel Roosevelt was at one time assistant secretary of the navy of the United States and in such capacity made the almost unprecedented requisition for a quarter of a million dollars' worth of ammunition. It was in the face of great opposition that his request was granted by the higher powers, but the use of this ammunition in target practice resulted so beneficially in the gunners' scores that it made a simple matter of the annihilation by Dewey of the Spanish fleet in Manila harbor and the destruction of Cervera's squadron at Santiago de Cuba.

"Preparedness for war" was the theme of Colonel Roosevelt's speech yesterday. It was not the talk of a jingo but of one who has given calm and careful consideration to a subject and he was able to speak as one having authority. The address is a classic as well as being a very timely document. The references made to Greece's unpreparedness when it made war against Turkey, China's lack of preparedness when it entered the lists against Japan, and Belgium's placidity and trust in "a scrap of paper," were compared very strikingly with the situation in Switzerland today, where practically every man has a thorough understanding of the manual of arms and where the government is practicing eternal vigilance against any attack by a foreign foe. The colonel might have said, instead of leaving it to inference, that Belgium's unpreparedness resulted in its ruin, while Switzerland is as yet unharmed through the war that is raging on all its boundaries.

Well did the colonel conclude: "Finally and most important, let us remember that there can be no efficient preparedness against war unless we prepare our own souls. If we become soft and flabby physically and morally, we shall fail. No nation ever amounted to anything if its population was composed of pacifists and poltroons, if its sons did not have the fighting edge, if its women did not feel as the mothers of Washington's continentals felt, as the mothers of the men who followed Grant and Lee felt; men who are not ready to fight for the right are not fit to live in a free democracy. The only women fit to be wives and mothers in a free republic are those who feel that their sons are not sons of theirs unless when their country calls their souls are eager and their feet jubilant to answer the mighty trumpet note which announces that the hearts of men are being sifted out before the judgment seat."

TONOPAH KIDDIES LUCKY

THE movement for public playgrounds has been sweeping the east like a tornado. Cities, towns and villages have equipped their corner lots with swings, merry-go-rounds, metal toboggan slides, sand piles and other apparatus intended to induce the children to get legitimate exercise out of doors; to not only train their muscles and change that pale, sickly, indoor complexion for the brawny, tanned color that bespeaks hardened muscles and physical robustness, says the Elko Free Press.

Tonopah, evidently feeling that her "boy of today is the man of tomorrow, has installed a public playground, and that city is to be congratulated for its enterprise. Next to the thoughtful care of its veterans and its aged that nation may be judged for its humanity by the stand that it takes towards its children.

While as yet Elko has plenty of open ground for children to exercise, they have the river to swim in in summer, and to skate on in winter, they have the ball park, and a few vacant lots for their juvenile sports, yet it will not be long until every inch of vacant ground will be occupied in this place, and the kiddies here, too, will have to have their playground, just as they do in the older cities where corner lots are too valuable to be used for baseball diamonds and where whirling automobiles, busy with the city's traffic, make even the suburban streets unsafe for pull-away and kindred games.

WHY THE TEUTON DRIVE SUCCEEDS

REFERENCE to the map of Europe and Asia reveals the fact that the territory of Poland is only about 1 per cent of that of the Russian empire, including Siberia. A second glance shows that Poland is bounded on three sides by Germany and Austria. There are no natural barriers to hold back the Teutons, while the fortifications that were erected and maintained by the czar were totally inadequate when menaced by modern artillery. Poland is inhabited by a cosmopolitan people, not all, nor nearly all, of whom are loyal to the great white bear. Furthermore Poland is situated hundreds of miles from the seat of government of Russia and the communicating lines are incapable of rapidly transporting great armies and their munitions. Having captured the two larger fortresses—with unpronounceable names—it was rather a simple matter for the armies of Wilhelm and Josef to advance upon Riga and Warsaw, neither of which they have, however, yet taken.

The wonderful success of the German drive is given entirely too much publicity in the press and its results too great credence in the minds of the neutral public. The Teutons have undoubtedly out-classed the Russians in this campaign, but they are fighting with a well trained army in a region not far removed from their base of supplies, against a country that was ill prepared for combat and which is at the disadvantage of fighting so many hundred miles from its base of supplies.

It is little wonder that Germany is simply attempting to play a draw game in Belgium and on the French frontier, while Austria is seemingly content to hold the invading Italian army near the international boundary. The aggressive warfare at present is being carried on by the entente almost exclusively in Poland. Doubtless the drive will result in the occupation of both Warsaw and Riga. It probably will continue even farther to the north and east; but no one, no matter how strongly pro-German he may be, would have the temerity to assert that the invasion of Russia would be continuous to any great distance. The farther that Germany and Austria proceed in this direction, the more difficult it will become to bring up the constantly needed reinforcement and supplies. On the other hand the farther the enemy penetrates its territory the more easy will become Russia's task. It will then be a much simpler matter to use strategy and lead a constantly attacking party on to its own destruction, by separating it from its base of supplies and leaving it in the position that Napoleon's army was, when Moscow was burned.

Secretary Daniels is said to be delaying work on the naval program for the next congress in the hope that he may secure from beligerent operations in Europe some useful suggestions. One such immediately occurs to us: In England there has been a change in the head of the admiralty.

The press agent of the Los Angeles Saengerfest supplies the Bonanza and doubtless other papers with notification that a gold cup, valued at \$10,000, has been presented for the best singer by Emperor Franz Josef of "Australia." That is enough to queer the show for the allies.

It's an ill wind that blows the tarvia dust.

CLIPPED AND CREDITED

Hereafter, when Vic Huerta makes any sudden plans, he better see America first.—Boston Advertiser.

After all Colonel Roosevelt may not envy Mr. Bryan all the publicity that good man has been receiving.—Chicago News.

If Germany decides to attack Switzerland, she will learn what stuff yodelers are made of.—Birmingham Age-Herald.

The Mexican press agents are beginning to write the casualties of their battles as if they were real fights.—Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.

Governor Whitman says that he believes in second terms. Strange!—Columbia State.

"Germany demands more concessions." A ream or two of passport blanks!—Philadelphia Evening Ledger.

What with drives and smashes the war censor is encroaching upon golf preserves.—Baltimore American.

The brace the Russians have taken leads to the suspicion that they have taken a brace of vodka.—Albany Argus.

Mr. Bryan told his neighbor at Lincoln that "Nebraska is so restful." Naturally—Mr. Bryan is so seldom at home.—Houston Post.

Porfirio Diaz's greatness needs no greater eulogy than the fact that he kept Mexico out of trouble for nearly 35 years.—Detroit Free Press.

There are 140,000 Irishmen in the British army, and it is understood that a number of Englishmen are thinking of enlisting, too.—St. Louis Republic.

Serbian regiments have occupied Durazzo, capital of Albania. Albania seems to be just as neutral as Belgium or China or the Suez canal.—Detroit Journal.

Mr. von Jagow seems to have thought that what we wanted to know, especially, was how wicked England is.—Ohio State Journal.

"Crooks are wanted in Philadelphia," says a headline in a Quaker City newspaper. And it's a long time until election.—Allentown Democrat.

Oh, wise Oyster Bayers! The colonel leaves and you apply for four motorcycle policemen. That is about the right ratio.—Philadelphia Evening Ledger.

Out in Missouri they never paid much attention to the Lusitania outrage, but they can never forgive the Germans for not saving the Armenian mules.—Philadelphia Ledger.

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PREPARE FOR WAR, SAYS THE COLONEL

(Continued from Page 1.)

In declining to apply their principle in the case of the Lusitania there had been evidence of national hypocrisy or else an utter recklessness of folly in making promises. It was necessary to repudiate the principle in the Lusitania case, the colonel agreed, but "a shameful thing to have put ourselves in such a position that it had to be repudiated."

"The building of the canal nearly doubles the potential efficiency of the United States navy, as long as it is fortified and is in our hands; but if left unfortified, it would at once become a menace to us."

"What is true as to our proper attitude in regard to the canal is no less true as regards our proper attitude concerning the interests of the United States taken as a whole. The canal is to be a great agency for peace; it can be such only, and exactly in proportion as it increases our potential efficiency in war."

"Those men who like myself believe that the highest duty of this nation is to prepare itself against war, so that it may safely trust its honor and interest to its own strength, are advocating merely that we do as a nation regarding our general interests what we have already done in Panama."

"We have been culpably, well-nigh criminally, remiss as a nation in not preparing ourselves and if, with the lessons taught the world by the dreadful tragedies of the last twelve months, we continue with soft complacency to stand helpless and naked before the world, we shall excite only contempt and derision if and when disaster ultimately overwhelms us."

"I advocate preparedness against war as the best type of peace insurance. Preparedness for war may be not only the best but the only corrective for the spirit of militarism. Switzerland is the most democratic of republics, and the least militaristic; and yet relatively to its size it is the best prepared against war."

"Preparedness is not the affair of a day. If we begin at once, a year or two must elapse before we shall have accomplished even a beginning. We should do what Switzerland and Argentina, for example, have already done. They now have universal military service in Argentina. The Argentine army is a great deal more fit to uphold the Monroe doctrine south of the equator than our army, and in spite of its high average of individual efficiency and because of its lamentable smallness, is fit to uphold the Monroe doctrine north of the equator."

"Drawing to the conclusion of his address, Col. Roosevelt urged increasingly high standards of efficiency in the army and navy. 'The navy,' he said, 'should never be used, as it was so long used in Mexican waters, for a police work of a kind that insures its deterioration as a fighting machine. It should be kept up to the highest pitch of fighting efficiency. It should be kept superior to any possible foe which might attack us within the limits above set forth.'

"Our regular army should be greatly increased in size and render much more efficiency by yearly maneuvering in mass, as well as practice in other directions. Conditions in Mexico are such that unless the Mexicans themselves come to their senses and unless we are content to see foreign

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powers undertake the regulation of Mexico, we may ultimately have to intervene. Such intervention would represent not real war but a work of pacification and police. For such work volunteer soldiers are not well fitted. It should be done exclusively by the regular army; and for this purpose there should be a mobile army of over a hundred and thirty thousand men, so that the whole regular army should be about two hundred thousand strong.

"In addition I believe that there should be universal military service for our young men on the Swiss model. In Switzerland the boys are trained for their last few years in the public schools and after they graduate from the public schools they serve with the army for four or six months and then for eight or ten days every year for the next ten years. This training and service, so far from hampering the Swiss or Switzerland in industry, has added enormously to the industrial efficiency both of the individuals and of the nation, and to their social efficiency also.

"Finally and most important, let us

remember that there can be no efficient preparedness against war unless we prepare our own souls. If we become soft and flabby physically and morally, we shall fail. No nation ever amounted to anything if its population was composed of pacifists and poltroons, if its sons did not have the fighting edge, if its women did not feel as the mothers of Washington's continentals felt, as the mothers of the men who followed Grant and Lee felt; men who are not ready to fight for the right are not fit to live in a free democracy. The only women fit to be wives and mothers in a free republic are those who feel that their sons are not sons of theirs unless when their country calls their souls are eager and their feet jubilant to answer the mighty trumpet note which announces that the hearts of men are being sifted out before the judgment seat."

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